

Message Text

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TAGS: CASC, BL
SUBJ: SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE PROMISES SUPPORT IN ACCEL-
ERATING JUDICIAL PROCESS FOR U.S. CITIZEN DETAINEES

1. AMBASSADOR HAS WRITTEN TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE BOLIVIAN SUPREME COURT, DR. RAUL ROMERO LINARES, REQUESTING COURT'S GOOD OFFICES AND SUPPORT IN ACCELERATING THE JUDICIAL PROCESS IN THE CASES OF U.S. CITIZEN PRISONERS. LETTER WAS HAND-CARRIED TO THE JUDGE IN SUCRE ON JUNE 2 BY POL/ECOM OFFICER KEMP WHO IS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH THE PRISONER SITUATION. IN A FORTY-FIVE MINUTE DISCUSSION WITH KEMP THE CHIEF JUSTICE EXPRESSED HIS WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST IN ACCELERATING THESE CASES IN THE INTEREST OF RAPID JUSTICE AS WELL AS THE MAINTENANCE OF AMICABLE BOLIVIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS. (HE WAS ENTIRELY FAMILIAR WITH THE CAMPAIGN OF THE PRISONERS' RELATIVES IN THE U.S. AND WITH THE EMBASSY'S EFFORTS IN THE PRISONERS' BEHALF.)

2. JUDGE ROMERO PROMISED TO CONVENE A SPECIAL MEETING OF ALL SUPREME COURT JUSTICES ON JUNE 3 TO CONSIDER THE SITUATION AND PREPARE A SERIES OF INSTRUCTIONS TO THE LOWER COURTS IN LA PAZ, COCHABAMBA AND SANTA CRUZ WHICH WOULD BE FORWARDED BY AIR MAIL CARRIER ON TUESDAY, JUNE 7, THE FIRST FLIGHTS FROM SUCRE AFTER THE WEEK-END. THE JUDGE WAS FULLY COGNIZANT OF THE NEED FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION PRIOR TO THE RECESS OF THE LA
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PAZ COURTS ON JUNE 13, ESPECIALLY IN THE CASE OF THE WASHINGTON FOUR.

3. JUDGE ROMERO INFORMED KEMP THAT THE CALENDAR OF THE CRIMINAL DIVISION OF THE SUPREME COURT IS CURRENT AND REVIEW CASES CAN THUS BE HANDLED SPEEDILY. HE PROMISED THAT AMERICAN

CASES ON REVIEW WOULD BE GIVEN IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. FISCALES OF THE SUPREME COURT WOULD BE URGED TO SUBMIT THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN ONE WEEK OF RECEIPT OF THE SUPERIOR COURT DECISION, WITH THE SUPREME COURT REACHING ITS CONCLUSIONS A WEEK THEREAFTER.

4. JUDGE ROMERO APPEARED TO BE FULLY RECEPTIVE TO THE EMBASSY'S REQUEST AND NOW IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT THE HIGH COURT CAN ACTUALLY DO TO COUNSEL AND EXERT PRESSURE ON THE LOWER COURTS, AND WHETHER IT WILL TAKE ACTION IN ITS OWN SPHERE AS SPEEDILY AS PROMISED.
STEDMAN

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